

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 SS-15 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JTRATTNER:SM

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S/S -- CABORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 041695 TOSEC 040145

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, FRIDAY, FEB. 20

NO. 11

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SPOKEMAN'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
FROM PRESS AT DAILY BRIEFING:

(1) PRC PLANE PICKS UP NIXON IN LOS ANGELES FOR CHINA
VISIT -- DEPARTMENT LEARNED FEBRUARY 18 OF POSSIBILITY OF
ATTEMPT AT ATTACHING PLANE, AND CHINESE IN WASHINGTON WERE
INFORMED. USG DID NOT SEEK IMMUNITY FOR PLANE SINCE NO
ATTEMPT TO ATTACH IT WAS ACTUALLY MADE. PLANE CAME IN AND
DEPARTED WITH NIXON. AS FAR AS WE AWARE, THERE WERE NO
PROBLEMS. WHETHER WE WOULD HAVE SOUGHT IMMUNITY FOR PLANE
IF ATTACHMENT ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE IS SPECULATIVE QUESTION
WE CANNOT ANSWER. CLAIMS BY PRIVATE U.S. CITIZENS OUT-
STANDING AGAINST PRC TOTAL ABOUT DOLLAR 200 MILLION.

(2) REPORTS THAT RHODESIA MAY BE ON BRINK OF GUERRILLA
WAR -- WE BELIEVE CURRENT TALKS BETWEEN SMITH AND NKOMO ARE
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EXCELLENT CHANCE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO RHODESIAN

CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS. OUR SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA IS FIRM AND UNCHANGED. WE SUPPORT EFFORTS SUCH AS NOW UNDERWAY TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL SOLUTION. WE FAVOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT LEADING TO PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO FULLY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND MAJORITY RULE. WE THEREFORE URGE AGAIN THE REALISTIC ROAD TO SUCH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AT AN EARLY DATE.

(3) SENATOR CHURCH'S CALL, AT BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWS, FOR RENEWED U.S. EFFORTS WITH SOVIETS TO INCREASE JEWISH EMIGRATION -- IN LAST FIVE YEARS, ROUGHLY DATING FROM TIME U.S. BEGAN EFFORT TO PUT ITS RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS ON MORE CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS, ABOUT 100,000 JEWS HAVE EMIGRATED. WE BELIEVE OUR POLICIES HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN THIS OVERALL UPWARD TREND, NOTWITHSTANDING INTERMEDIATE UPS AND DOWNS IN EMIGRATION FIGURES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, JEWS, PRESS CONFERENCES, CODELS, MEETINGS, EMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE041695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTRATTNER:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760064-0970
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760227/aaaaaxgd.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, FRIDAY, FEB. 20 NO. 11
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, PINS, SREF, US, CH, RH, UR, BE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (NIXON, RICHARD M), (CHURCH, FRANK)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006